

Halloween



October 31 is Halloween and it's celebrated in many countries around the world. What are the origins of this spooky day and how do people celebrate today? Read the article and find out.

1. Match the words with the definitions.

a fancy dress costume Irish to dress up to carve a tradition the origin
a pumpkin a harvest a lantern a skull

Special clothes you wear to look like somebody or something else, often at a party

A belief or way of doing something that people have followed for many years

The beginning or cause of something

The time of year when fruit and vegetables are collected on farms

People or things that come from Ireland

An orange vegetable that can be as big as a football

A kind of lamp that has a light, such as a candle, inside a container

To make something by cutting into it

To wear special clothes

The bones of the head

When you think of Halloween, you probably think of pumpkin lanterns, fancy-dress costumes and children asking for sweets. And if you think of a country that celebrates Halloween, you probably think of the United States first. Americans and Canadians have adopted Halloween in a big way, but did you know that Halloween traditions actually come from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales?

2. Put the words in the correct form of PAST SIMPLE.

The origins of Halloween

The Celts _____ (be) people who _____ (live) in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and they _____ (celebrate) a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because that _____ (be) the end of summer and harvest time (which was associated with food and life) and the beginning of winter (which they _____ (associate) with death). Have you ever wondered why Halloween colours are orange and black? Orange is related to harvests and black is related to death.

Samhain was the time for ghosts to return to earth for a day. People _____ (light) a big fire, _____ (wear) special clothes made of animal skin and _____ (hope) to be safe from the ghosts and the winter.

In early America, the Native Americans and the first Europeans celebrated the end of the harvest, but not Halloween. When many Irish people _____ (go) to live in America in the 1800s, they _____ (bring) their Halloween traditions with them and Halloween _____ (become) popular throughout the country.

3. a) Put the sentences in the correct order.

Pumpkin lanterns

Irish people who came to live in the United States found pumpkins much easier to carve, and the tradition became the one we see today.

They remove the inside of the pumpkin, cut shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth and place a candle in the empty pumpkin to make a scary face.

This tradition came from the Celts, who carved faces into vegetables like turnips and potatoes to scare the ghosts and make them go away.

Many people make pumpkin lanterns to decorate their homes at Halloween.

3. b) Ask your partner questions about their text and write down the answers.

1. What do children ask their neighbours for?
2. What did the Celtic people do ancient Britain?
3. Who brought trick-or-treating to America?
4. Is trick-or-treating still popular? How do you know?

4. a) Fill in the missing words.

Halloween costumes

popular	monsters	neighbours	Celts	came	dark	Halloween	North
were	costumes	This	century	more	hoped		

People of all ages dress up on _____. In the UK some of the most _____ costumes include witches, vampires, ghosts, skeletons, zombies and _____. We can trace this tradition back to the _____, who were afraid of the ghosts that _____ on Samhain. If they went outside after _____, they covered their faces with masks. They _____ any ghosts they met would think they _____ ghosts too and would leave them alone.

_____ Americans wear all kinds of Halloween _____ and not just scary things like witches and ghosts. _____ is because in the late 19th _____, people tried to make Halloween less about ghosts and _____ about celebrating the season with a party for _____ and family.

4. b) Change with your partner and correct his mistakes.

5. Kahoot.it – Questions about Halloween.

6. Kahoot.it – Truth or False